

From: Paul D. Weatherford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 7:50pm
Subject: *Don't just slap the hands of a Monopolizer."

If the judgment passed on Microsoft had contained an adequate penalty maybe you would not have so many states desiring to apply stricter standards that what were imposed.

Their software is intrusive on the average buyer. They control the software even after it has been sold to the customer who should have rights to implement for his use without checking for Microsofts approval. I am forced to take much of their software because they control the manufacturers which include their software without a choice among the manufacturers. The manufacturers are blackmailed into accepting Microsoft software because of their monopoly of the operating system. There is a lot of other software out there I had rather have a choice of, but I am forced to accept what the manufacturer sends me because they are also coerced to follow Microsofts' demand or lose the operating system used on computers which they have monopolized in the market. There are elements in their operating system software that forces you to use because it is included. There are programs from other software manufacturers that just will not because they have been excluded from the possibility of competing with Microsoft. I have used Lotus SmartSuite for a number of years, but the advent of Windows XP prevents me from using my old software. So, I was forced to buy new Lotus SmartSuite which will work on the old Windows ME operating system. If you want the benefit of a better operating system, you are forced to buy new software.

I have Windows Office Professional which I received with my new computer in March 2001, but all of my documents are under Lotus SmartSuite. So, I had to partition my 60 Gig hard drive and put Windows XP on one drive and Windows ME on the other. Otherwise, Windows XP would have made a plethora of my software obsolete. Software is not cheap, as if Microsoft cared about the final customer.

No judgment against Microsoft would be too harsh against such a selfish company.

Maybe you have heard of Microsofts' largess to our schools. They gave them old machines - not current technology. The schools have to do upgrades of these computers to enable them to work for the benefit of students in the classroom.

What a farce. No doubt they are taking a big tax write-off for their charitable donation.